The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news, accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 24, 1932, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1923.

WE PLEDGE—
1 MILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1638 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 35

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Little bonds buy big bombers. In Maryland a lot of little men are buying little bonds. At the same time they are building a huge Naval Air Station where one day big bombers will take off to protect American democracy.

We called them "little" men. As a matter of fact they are little only in the sense that their names are unknown outside of their own circle of friends and relatives. In every other sense they are big men, especially big in their devotion to their country.

For these 2,197 men working on the construction of the Cedar Point project in Maryland—every single one of them—are giving 10 per cent of their pay each week for the purchase of war bonds.

This is one of the few 100 per cent jobs in the country. And it is also one of the nation's outstanding examples of labor-management cooperation to make the Treasury Department's 10 per cent payroll allotment program a success.

In the three months up to Aug. 20, the workers at Cedar Point bought $170,460 worth of War Bonds. Before the project is completed another 4,000 men will be put to work there, so the total purchases will accelerate much more rapidly in the future.

They are making the week of Labor Day at Cedar Point "Labor's Answer Week." The answer is to Hitler and Hirohito. It consists of a voluntary agreement to put half of that week's pay into War Bonds.

Going To Town

That's what we call really going to town. We want to tell you who and what are responsible for this remarkable achievement. Because if it can be done at Cedar Point, there is no reason why it can't be done in every plant which has an American Federation of Labor union.

Cedar Point is a construction job. Ordinarily it is much more difficult to put a payroll allotment program into effect on a construction job than in a manufacturing plant. That is because the men are not employed continuously by the same employer but move from job to job and from employer to employer as their part of the construction work is completed.

Let us concede that the workers at Cedar Point are inspired by true patriotic fervor. But even that doesn't tell the whole story. Other workers in many different parts of the country are just as patriotic and just as anxious to help America win the war. Nor are the workers at Cedar Point especially affluent. Workers in other parts of the country earn as much if not more.

It's just that at Cedar Point the first lesson of trade unionism—organization—has been applied to the job. In this project it is Local Union Willy Arabein, financial secretary-treasurer and business representative of the Road, Highway and Heavy Construction Laborers, who talked to the men. Willy about his activities. He's full of enthusiasm and pride for his men and he's loud in praise for the Cummins Construction Company, which is the contractor on the job, but he doesn't boast about himself.

Power of Persuasion

Nevertheless, it wasn't difficult for us to discover why Willy is winning out. He works hard at his job, day and night. He's putting real drive and missionary zeal behind his efforts.

But Willy says that most of the credit belongs to George Deterer, paymaster for the contractor. Deterer has cooperated wholeheartedly to make the building industry object to the payroll allotment program because it means too much extra bookkeeping. But Deterer refused to be licked on that account and worked out a simple method of keeping tabs on bond purchases without too much additional paper work.

We are willing to give Deterer the credit he deserves. But it seems to us that Willy must have done some effective persuading. We know his powers of persuasion, because his eloquent insistence on the need for all building trades unions to get behind the payroll allotment program as the boys at Cedar Point have done persuaded us to write this piece.

Willy is not confining his efforts to Cedar Point. He is also serving on the Washington, D. C., Building and Construction War Savings Bond Committee. This committee has sent out to all building trades employers in its territory an appeal to install payroll savings plans. We overcome any and all objections, the committee outlined four alternative plans, one of which is calculated to fit any particularly difficult situation.

Our hats are off to you, Willy Arabein. We think he is doing a swell job. We would like to see all union representatives follow his example. Let's show the world that the trade unions of the American Federation of Labor have the highest quality of local leadership!

Work Clothing Price Fixing Rules Injure Labor, Benefit Profiteers

Pursuant to his policy of giving profiteers everything they ask, Price Administrator Leon Henderson took a wallop at the purses of farmers and workers. He decreed that they will have to pay more for all sizes of overalls or other work clothing where one suit sufficed heretofore. Here's how:

Retailers complained they were being gouged by manufacturers and asked for a higher price ceiling in order, they said, to continue handling work clothing.

Henderson met this demand by directing manufacturers to reduce prices to distributors, but opened the door for even greater profits by permitting the manufacturers to lower the quality of their product.

Overalls and other work clothing are to be made of lower-grade materials, pockets and buttons are to be eliminated, and triple-stitching of seams is to be replaced by single stitching.

Thus, the manufacturer retains his "margin," which Henderson admitted is too high, and the retailer is relieved of a "squeeze." The only unhappy persons are workers and farmers, who will wear overalls that will lose the tough durability necessary to stand up under the strain of hard work.

Molders' Union Halts Discharge Of Negro Workers By Mobile Firm

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green congratulates Harry Stevenson, president of the International Molders and Foundry Workers Union of North America, for courageous action which prevented the employer in Mobile, Ala., from getting away with a particularly vicious example of racial discrimination against Negro workers.

The management of the Mobile Public Service Commission reported, discharged a number of Negro workers and finally brought about a crisis by firing the Negro financial secretary of the local union when he took three days off because of a death in the family.

The other Negro workers then quit their jobs. Stevenson, after conferring with representatives of the Navy Department, revealed upon their return to work with the understanding that the case of the financial secretary would be taken up later. However, the company refused to take the Negroes back.

Stevenson then notified Conciliation Director John Steelman that his organization would give the discharged Negro workers full financial support. This induced the entire Mobile workmen in the plant to quit the job.

Explaining why he acted in this manner despite the AFL no-strike policy, Stevenson said:

"I told the men that this company and the Government of the United States who had asked that there should be no discrimination toward the Negroes in this country."

The company was finally forced to back down and there was then no discharged Negroes.

It is better to Stevenson, President of the union.

"The best interests of the American Federation of Labor will be served by accepting Negro workers into membership in our unions and by according them equal rights with other workmen in the manufacturing plants where AFL unions are certified as collective bargaining agents," he declared. "I can see by your report that you accept this policy and that unions are officially trying to carry it into effect."

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL LAUDS DEMOCRACY IN INDUSTRY

Washington, D. C.—The Synagogue Council of America in a Labor Day message issued to American workers through the Jewish Labor Committee declared:

"The Synagogue Council takes note of Labor Day this year as a milestone of progress in the development of industrial democracy as part of the American pattern to resist the dictatorship of any class.

"The Synagogue Council would have Labor Day this year serve as an occasion for the American people in all walks of life to dedicate the work of hand and brain, and the resources of talent, energy and substance to American's part in the war being waged to the end that civilization's progress shall not be destroyed.

"The Synagogue Council would have Labor Day invoke the forward vision of statesmanship looking to a new world to be achieved through victory of the United Nations, in which men shall enjoy the fruit of their labor in peace, in human dignity and in freedom.

"The Synagogue Council calls upon its rabbis and congregations throughout the land to dwell upon the theme of Labor Day in their prayers and in their sermons."

Green Spurs Labor And Management To Back Payroll War Bond Plan

New York City.—The enthusiastic support given by two million members of the American Federation of Labor to the War Bond campaign knows no bounds, President William Green declared at a luncheon opening a campaign to intensify labor-management cooperation in support of the Treasury Department's 10 per cent payroll allotment program.

"We now have a voluntary program for war bond purchases," Mr. Green said. "If it fails, compulsory methods are inevitable. It must not fail! We must not let up until 60 million more than American way of doing things. That is the very thing we are fighting this war to prevent.

"The voluntary payroll allotment plan is not going places. If it is not producing the money required—not by half. We've got to get busy—labor and management together—and put the payroll allotment plan in effect in thousands of plants and factories and stores and banks where it has yet been taken.

"This is our problem—labor's and industry's. We don't need the government to crack the whip over us. We know this is our war. We know that private industry and organized labor, as such, are at stake in this war—not to help America win the war. Nor are the workers at Cedar Point especially affluent. Workers in other parts of the country earn as much if not more.

It's just that at Cedar Point the first lesson of trade unionism—organization—has been applied to the job. In this project it is Local Union Willy Arabein, financial secretary-treasurer and business representative of the Road, Highway and Heavy Construction Laborers, who talked to the men. Willy about his activities. He's full of enthusiasm and pride for his men and he's loud in praise for the Cummins Construction Company, which is the contractor on the job, but he doesn't boast about himself.

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"Leaders of all branches of Labor have given counsel in the chairboards and committees of the Red Cross. With a great production task facing them in the factories, the workers of America also have shared the work of this humanitarian armed forces.

"The American Red Cross, on Labor's own national holiday, salutes the cooperation and generous support given the Red Cross by the soldiers of industry. Another year will see a greater need and a great common task.

"We shall continue to work shoulder to shoulder to the end that humanity shall live again among all nations and that Labor may work again in freedom from war and destruction."

Accidents Kill 19,200 Workers; 100,600 Suffer Permanent Injury

Washington, D. C.—Injuries, for the most part preventable, exacted an appalling toll of the lives, working ability and the time of American workers last year.

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins disclosed the startling figures—19,200 dead, 100,600 permanently injured and 2,060,000 temporarily disabled.

Total time lost during the year from accidents was estimated at 47,-083,000 man-days. In addition, the death or permanent disability of injured workers will cause an additional loss of time in the future of 203,000,000 man-days.

Combining these figures are the equivalent of full-time employment for a year for more than 800,000 workers, or enough to build more than 10 battleships, 500 destroyers or 1,000 submarines.

Compared with this grisly record, time lost through strikes, about which labor haters have ranted so much, is insignificant.

Labor Day Message

By FRANCES PERKINS
Secretary of Labor

American workers observing Labor Day this year have pledged themselves to all out production to safeguard their beloved country and to aid the United Nations.

On this fifty-fifth anniversary of the day set aside in special recognition of this nation's debt to the untold millions whose labors have, in large measure, made America great, I salute you today, the able-bodied, disability of your sons and brothers on the fighting fronts and to their fellow workers in our allied countries.

Through this harmony with management, American labor is winning the battle of production and will turn out more and more of the weapons and materials needed by the United Nations to put an end to the dictators. American workers stand ready at all times to meet every demand made upon them for the protection of the Americas and the needs of our fighting men. Labor is determined to keep the way of life in our way of life.

They know that they have everything at stake in keeping fiving the benefits of democracy. If the dictators should have their way, the workers would be enslaved and there would be no free men in factory, shop, office or farm. Instead there would be only men in bondage.

Labor and industry are giving their best to the war production program which they will help to carry through successfully so that we may continue to enjoy the American way of life.

Free labor will triumph over slave labor in the battle of production, for free labor is determined to safeguard liberty and the pursuit of happiness and to preserve this American heritage for the generations to come.

Davis Pays Labor High Tribute For Full Support of Red Cross

Washington, D. C.—Norman H. Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross, issued the following Labor Day Statement praising labor for its cooperation in aiding war victims:

"Labor Day will fall within two months to a day after the tragic day at Pearl Harbor. In that interval many months when war has been brought more closely home to the people of America, Labor has put its forces behind the Red Cross, giving its fullest support to our service, to the men in the armed forces and to the nation as a whole. It has given blood, money, time, energy and skill in response to the appeal for aid to the victims of the war.

President To Disclose Wage Plan, Farm Price Control, On Labor Day; Green Will Broadcast From Omaha

Labor Day Broadcasts

Labor Day weekend will be featured by many special nation-wide broadcasts of particular interest to American workers. The following schedule lists in order the outstanding programs which should be on every worker's "must" listening list:

Saturday, Sept. 5

Labor For Victory—NBC—10:15 P. M., E. W. T., will feature President Roosevelt's Labor Day message.

Sunday, Sept. 6

Navy Hour—CBS—2 to 2:30 P. M., E. W. T., will salute labor.
Army Hour—NBC—3:30 to 4:30 P. M., E. W. T., will honor Army workers.
American Forum—Mutual—8 P. M. E. W. T., will feature John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department and several outstanding industrialists in a discussion on war production.
George Meany—Mutual—11:15 P. M., E. W. T., the AFL Secretary-Treasurer will give Labor Day message.

Labor Day, Sept. 7

John Frey—Mutual—11:30 A. M., E. W. T., will make dedicatory address at launching of the Samuel Gompers in Los Angeles.
William Green—Blue Network—4:15 to 5 P. M., E. W. T., the president of the American Federation of Labor will deliver the major address of Labor Day before a huge outdoor gathering in Omaha, Neb. Appearing on the same program will be Paul V. McNutt, head of the War Manpower Commission.
Donald Nelson—NBC—4:45 P. M., E. W. T., will deliver Labor Day talk at AFL-CIO-Railroad Labor rally at Cleveland.
I. M. Ornburn—Mutual—4:45 P. M., E. W. T., the secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department will talk on union label.
President Roosevelt—On all networks, in evening, time not yet announced, will deliver fireside chat on wage stabilization.
Frances Perkins—CBS—11:15 P. M., E. W. T., the Secretary of Labor will deliver Labor Day talk.

Roosevelt Again Cracks Down On Newspaper "Strike" Smears

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt found it necessary to crack down again at a White House press conference on columnists and newspaper editors who continue to play up false stories about strikes holding up war production.

He referred to the totalitarian strike yarns in the papers where seriously injuring morale among the allied nations abroad.

These exaggerated dispatches, he said, have led people of the United Nations to fear that production is falling down in this country. Even some British labor leaders, he revealed, had expressed worry about the strike situation.

They had evidently been taken in by some of the distorted newspaper and press syndicate stories, and the President explained the British laborites were worried by the fact that them losses caused by strikes are "only an infinitesimal percentage of the total output."

The trouble, he said, lies in the fact that the newspapers and press agencies, in their zeal to put the worst possible face on industrial disputes, play up all ill-lived strikes of a handful of workers in such a manner as to make people in the United States and abroad believe that crippling production is, when as a matter of fact they have little, or no, effect.

Even worse, he said, is the fact that Axis countries eagerly seize on these fantastic yarns for propaganda purposes and send them all over Europe and Asia. In other words, newspaper lies are serving as "talking points" for the totalitarian pronagandists.

The President added he considered the falsification by the press so serious that he would bring them before the Congressional War Investigating Committee headed by Senator Wendell Willkie, the Republican standard bearer in 1940, on a mission to the Near East and Russia to present the true facts.

Government Report Praises Pact For Building Wage Stabilization

Washington, D. C.—Voluntary stabilization of wages by organized labor can succeed far better than compulsory freezing. That's the highlight of a significant report by the Wage Adjustment Board for the building construction industry, headed by Dan W. Tracy, assistant secretary of labor.

This report was put up several months ago to administer an agreement which AFL Building Trades unions took the initiative in proposed to government agencies. It is made up of labor and government representatives.

Under the pact, which was signed by Tracy and President Franklin D. Roosevelt, it was provided that on and after July 1, wages of 1,500,000 building trades workers engaged on defense projects would be stabilized at the prevailing wage level of that date. These already at that level would forego further raises.

Some government officials were openly skeptical of the agreement at first. Newspapers derided it. Followers of Leon Henderson, who advocates wage freezing by government fiat, raised the scare that workers would rush in before the July 1 deadline to demand blanket pay increases.

All these bugaboos have been disproved. Tracy's report revealed. Actually, the pact has stabilized wages at more thoroughly than even union leaders thought possible, he said.

Only about 25 or 30 local unions—about 1 per cent of the total—tried to "beat the gun" and get increases between May 22 and July 1, the report showed. Of these, the Adjustment Board allowed increases in less than half the cases—where scales were considerably below prevailing rates.

"This means that the stabilization agreement has been entirely without inflationary effect," Tracy's report made clear.

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins also gave high praise to the functioning of the agreement.

"It proves that voluntary agreements are workable and anti-inflationary," she said.

Vigorous United Nations Drive Against Axis Visioned By Bevin

New York, N. Y.—Ernest Bevin, Britain's Minister of War Production, former Purfleet dock worker, declared United Nations are speeding significant military moves for the expansion of a new front.

In a Labor Day message, sent to American labor through the National Labor Division of Citizens For Victory, headed by Samuel Shore, Mr. Bevin said:

"It is with special pleasure that I send greetings to your organization of British and American trade union workers. The task now is for the United Nations to work with such energy and cohesion that their full weight and power will be brought to bear upon the aggressor at the earliest possible moment and thereby bring final victory and peace."

Mr. Bevin's greeting came in response to a message from the Labor Division of Citizens For Victory, which consists of outstanding AFL, CIO and railway labor unions—all joined in a united effort to "win the war—win the peace and preserve democracy."

In behalf of the Labor Division of Citizens For Victory, Mr. Shore pledged to British Labor, through Mr. Bevin, an intensified drive to promote Anglo-American labor solidarity in our common determined effort to defeat Axis savagery and uproot fascist tyranny."

President Expected to Reject Wage Freezing and Keep War Labor Board

Washington, D. C. — Labor Day assumes special significance this year because President Roosevelt has chosen this holiday to deliver a vital "fireside chat" to the nation revealing his new program for wage stabilization and control of farm prices.

This program will affect every American. The President has discussed it at two White House conferences with AFL President William Green and CIO President Philip Murray.

The President made it clear that he does not intend to propose wage freezing but a form of stabilization which will permit the adjustment of inequities and the lifting of sub-standard pay levels.

The labor leaders made it equally clear to the President that they would insist that decisions with regard to specific wage disputes must be left in the hands of the National War Labor Board, the only Federal war agency on which labor has direct representation and a voice in policy-making.

The President's plans with regard to farm prices are of almost equal importance to labor because they have a direct bearing on the cost of living.

On Labor Day the President will share the national stage with many other outstanding American leaders who will deliver special talks.

Heading the list is the annual Labor Day address by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, who will talk to a mass meeting of workers at Omaha, Neb., park. His address will be carried over the Blue Network from coast to coast from 4:15 to 5 P.M., Eastern War Time. Paul V. McNutt, Federal Manpower Commission Chairman, will share the rostrum with him.

On Labor Day also the Maritime Commission will launch several new merchant ships to be named after labor's heroes of the past. John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, will make the dedicatory address at the launching of the Samuel Gompers in Los Angeles. This talk will be broadcast over the Mutual System from 11:30 A.M. to noon, Eastern War Time. In other cities, ships named after Andrew Furuseth, Peter J. McGuire and James Duncan will be launched.

George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL, will deliver a Labor Sunday address over the Mutual network from 11:15 to 11:30 P.M., E.W.T., on Sept. 6.

PACT IMPROVES LABOR'S STATUS IN RELIEF WORK

New York, N. Y.—On this Labor Day, 1942, American organized labor achieves new dignity. An agreement of far-reaching importance to American organized labor, providing for official representation by labor on the Governing Boards and Campaign and Allocations Committees of Community War Chests, as well as full credit for the contributions of union members for the funds made on the job, has just been concluded according to Matthew Woll, AFL vice-president and member of United Nations Relief of the Labor League for Human Rights.

The agreement was negotiated by United Nations Relief with the National Association of Community Chests and Councils, Inc., and establishes the standard of relations that organized labor should have with the Chest in each community, if the Chest is to enjoy the maximum cooperation and support of the labor movement.

"Heretofore," Mr. Woll stated, "labor has made its generous contributions in many ways: to the Chests, to the separate appeal agencies, such as Red Cross, USO, Army and Navy Relief, British, Russia, and China Relief, and to its own relief committees. But contributions were given on the job through the union, through special efforts, money and time. And the contributions of any type which were officially recorded and credited to the labor movement as a whole in the past, were those made to its own relief committees. This situation is now remedied by the agreement reached with Community Chests and Councils, Inc."

Each community will be represented by its influential labor leaders on the Chest and the gifts of the unions will be credited with the contributions of their members even when the donations are collected on the job. In the past, such contributions were reported by Chests as coming from the employer of a firm, rather than from the members of the union. Under the new agreement, the union will receive the credit for the contributions of its members, as well as the firm for the contributions of its employer.